

1999/51. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1996/43 of 26 July 1996, 1998/46 and 1998/47 of 31 July 1998, 1998/49 of 16 December 1998 and 1999/1 of 2 February 1999 and General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the

economic, social and related fields,¹⁴⁰ the progress report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions,¹⁴¹ the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1999¹⁴² and the report of the Vice-President of the Council on the joint meetings held between the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions;¹⁴³

I. RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

2. *Requests* the full implementation of paragraph 1 (I) of its resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, and paragraph 2 (f) (i) of its resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1988 regarding the scheduling of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council at least eight weeks before the session of the Council, where feasible, and submission of the reports of these bodies well in advance for the consideration of the Council;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in ensuring an increased interaction of the Council with its subsidiary bodies, including through joint bureau meetings, and in strengthening its coordinating functions, and supports the effort further to ensure the regular exchange of information on their programmes of work, including a more systematic transmission of documentation to other subsidiary bodies when it is of relevance to their work;

4. *Encourages* annual meetings of its Bureau with the chairpersons of the functional commissions to facilitate an exchange of views and information on the direction of the programmes of work of the commissions;

5. *Invites* the bureaux of the functional commissions to develop interaction among themselves to improve collaboration and coordination on issues that are addressed by two or more commissions, using information technology as required;

6. *Invites* the functional commissions to implement, where they have not yet done so, relevant provisions of its resolution 1998/46, in particular as it relates to the adoption of multi-year programmes of work and to the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on this matter to the Council at its substantive session of 2000;

7. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider adopting multi-year programmes of work;

8. *Encourages* the functional commissions, in formulating the titles of the items in their programmes of work, to provide, where appropriate, an explicit indication of linkages of their planned activities with those of other commissions and/or with major planned United Nations events, and also encourages the functional commissions, assisted by their secretariats, to enhance coordination and

¹⁴⁰ A/54/115-E/1999/59.

¹⁴¹ E/1999/56.

¹⁴² E/1999/101 and Corr.1.

¹⁴³ E/1999/108.

collaboration at the programme planning and formulation stage;

9. *Invites* the functional commissions, in designing their multi-year programmes of work, to take fully into account the multi-year programmes of work of other functional commissions to ensure complementarity between them;

10. *Stresses* the need for consistency and complementarity between the programmes of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, while keeping in mind the need to avoid overlapping and duplication of their mandates;

11. *Welcomes* the holding of open and informal dialogue sessions, including by the Council, on cross-cutting themes of various functional commissions, and encourages the further development of this practice, bearing in mind the importance of providing adequate time for intergovernmental debate, as well as the need to focus on issues within their mandates;

12. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring continuity of the bureaux of the functional commissions, and, therefore, invites the functional commissions to consider re-electing at least one member of the outgoing bureau to the incoming bureau, without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the election of the bureau;

13. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to improve its methods of work in order better to contribute to the work of the Council, and decides that the future programme of work of the Committee should be determined at the substantive session of the Council;

14. *Welcomes* the high-level special meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, and decides to maintain such meetings while focusing the agenda, in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions, on one or two major substantive issues in order to provide sufficient time to share views and to explore the relationship with the high-level segment of the Council;

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

15. *Welcomes* the continued strengthening of a productive partnership, in all its aspects and at all levels, between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions;

16. *Also welcomes* the series of events and initiatives in 1998 and 1999 which have strengthened and advanced the policy-oriented interaction and dialogue at the intergovernmental level, including dialogue between governing bodies of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions;

17. *Further welcomes* the broad agreement reached in the context of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development on the need

to involve the Bretton Woods institutions in the process of financing for development, as reflected in the report of the Working Group;¹⁴⁴

18. *Recommends* in this context that the General Assembly consider exploring, during its fifty-fourth session, the possibility of inviting the Bretton Woods institutions to participate in a joint task force with the United Nations with the aim of facilitating the further involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions in this process;

19. *Encourages* further intensification and deepening of collaboration at the secretariat level and, especially important, at the country level, with a view to ensuring coherence, complementarity and synergy of development activities and to promoting national ownership;

20. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions to undertake collectively a renewed effort further to coordinate policy approaches and give new impetus to collaborative and complementary actions by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular in the area of poverty eradication;

III. OUTCOMES OF THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN 1999

21. *Invites* the functional commissions to continue to give particular attention to the situation of African countries and the least developed countries in their consideration of relevant issues, especially in view of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in 2001 and the review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s¹⁴⁵ to be carried out in 2002;

22. *Encourages* the bureaux of the functional commissions to continue to support the cooperation among the functional commissions, in particular by implementing fully the guidance given by the Council in its resolution 1999/1, and encourages further strengthening and intensification of collaboration between and among the secretariats of the functional commissions; such collaboration can be in the form of, *inter alia*, preparation of joint reports on linked issues, systematic exchange of relevant information and documentation and participation in relevant activities, where feasible and appropriate;

23. *Requests* the functional commissions to report on the follow-up actions to the present resolution to the Council at its substantive session of 2000;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Council at its substantive session of 2000.

45th plenary meeting
29 July 1999

¹⁴⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 28 (A/54/28).

¹⁴⁵ See General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex.